

Health Equity Scholars for Action 2023 Call for Proposals



Applicant Webinar
May 10, 2023

Agenda

- Introduction to RWJF
- HES4A background & program components
- Eligibility criteria
- Application and review processes
- Scholar expectations
- Q&A
- Additional resources



Speakers



Sheldon Oliver Watts, PhD, MPH
Program Officer, RWJF



Jill Marsteller, PhD, MPP
Professor, Johns Hopkins University



Erin Hagan, PhD, MBA
Deputy Director, E4A




Lisa Dubay, PhD
Co-Director, P4A



Glen P Mays, PhD, MPH
Director, S4A



Introduction to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



*We seek bold and lasting change
rooted in the best available evidence,
analysis, and science, openly debated*

Our vision is that we,
as a nation, will strive
together to build a
Culture of Health
enabling all in our
diverse society to
lead healthier lives,
now and for
generations to come.





HES4A Background and Program Components



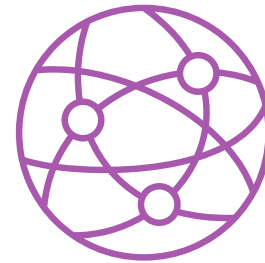
Health Equity Scholars for Action

The primary goal of HES4A is to support the **career development** and **academic advancement** of researchers from historically underrepresented backgrounds who are conducting health equity research

Purpose of the 2023 Call for Proposals

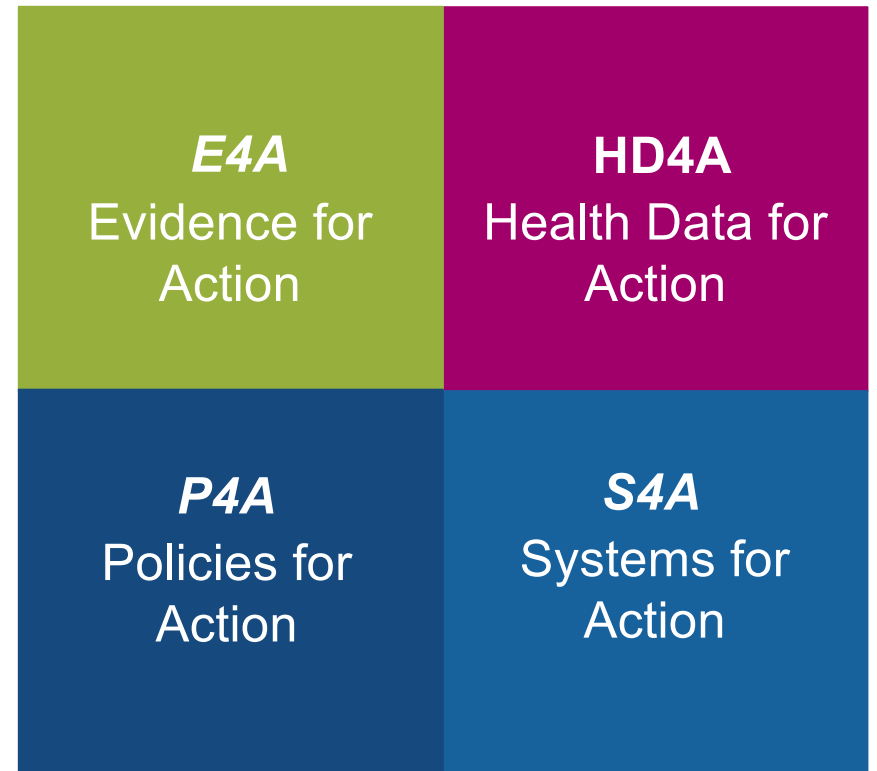
Select next cohort of HES4A fellows who will receive grants that will help them:

- Access independent research funding
- Advance their careers through tailored mentorship
- Connect with a community of support



Research

Scholars will conduct health equity focused research projects that reflect the spirit of one or more of RWJF's Research, Evaluation, and Learning (REL) signature research programs





Evidence for Action

Through the Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity Call for Proposals, [Evidence for Action](#) funds research projects that develop and disseminate evidence about what works to advance racial equity and improve health and well-being in the United States. This includes evaluations of interventions with the potential to disrupt systemic racism and the development of novel solutions to structural racism.



Policies for Action

Policies for Action identifies policies, laws, and other levers in the public and private sectors that can support a Culture of Health and help achieve health and racial equity. Through annual calls for proposals, the program funds research that can move policy toward the goals of dismantling structural racism and injustice and promote health equity. Efforts to do this include funding diverse researchers and research organizations, funding research focused on policy solutions to remedy structural inequities, and disseminating policy research that is equity focused and actionable.



Systems for Action

Through annual funding opportunities, [Systems for Action](#) funds rigorous research to identify novel mechanisms for aligning delivery and financing systems in **medical care, public health, and social services** in ways that improve **health and wellbeing**, achieve **efficiencies** in resource use, reduce **inequities**, and **dismantle structural racism**.

Types of Research

Research should build evidence on how specific interventions (i.e., policies, systems, programs, or practices) can inform action to enhance population health, well-being, and equity

For example:

- Program or policy evaluations
- Randomized trials
- Natural experiments
- Network or systems analyses
- Qualitative or mixed methods



Types of Research

Research that is NOT a good fit includes:

- Descriptive studies that seek to document the extent of a problem or condition without evaluating a solution
- Literature reviews and needs assessments
- Development and validation of screening tools
- Basic biomedical inquiry, drug therapy or device research, and animal or plant science



Mentorship



Each scholar will be matched with:

- Technical Mentor
 - The primary mentor and research advisor
 - Provides research-related technical assistance
- Career Coach
 - A leader in the scholar's field
 - Serves as a role model, guide and sponsor to promote career advancement

Optionally, scholars are encouraged to involve:

- Home Institution Advisor
 - Promotes the scholar's success within the home institution

Community of Support

- [Partners for Advancing Health Equity: A Research Learning Collaborative](#) facilitates the sharing of ideas to harmonize the goals of people and organizations, to advance solutions to achieve health equity
 - Opportunities for networking and professional development
 - Training and capacity building
 - Access to resources
- Events and activities organized by RWJF and signature research program offices (E4A, P4A, and S4A)





HES4A Awards

- Grants will be up to \$260,000 – funds will cover up to 70 percent of the scholar's salary for two years (capped at \$75,000 per year), with the remainder of the award to be used for research and other related expenses

For example:

- If salary is \$90,000, 70% can be covered by grant (\$63,000 each year)
 - If salary is \$110,000, up to \$75,000 will be covered by grant, although it is less than 70% of the salary
- Up to 15 grants will be awarded
- Grants will be for 24 months



Eligibility Criteria



Who's eligible to apply?

Applicants must belong to at least ONE systematically marginalized group that has historically been underrepresented in research disciplines.

For example:

- Ethnically and racially minoritized groups underrepresented in research disciplines
- First-generation college graduates
- People for whom English is not a native language
- People from low-income communities
- LGBTQIA+ individuals
- Individuals with disabilities

These examples are meant to be illustrative, not exclusive



Who's eligible to apply?

In addition, applicants must also meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Have completed a doctoral degree within the past 5 years (*graduation date between May 1, 2018 and May 31, 2023*);
- Be a junior faculty member with a full-time position that could lead to tenure, or be poised to be in such a position by the start of the grant;
- Have a home institution that agrees to administer the grant;
- Have never served as a PI on a post-doctoral grant greater than \$10,000;
- Have not received *major* support from other post-graduate research or training programs;
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or DACA recipient



Application & Review Process

Application Process

Apply at *my.RWJF.org*.

This is a 2-stage application process:

Stage 1: Letter of intent (LOI)

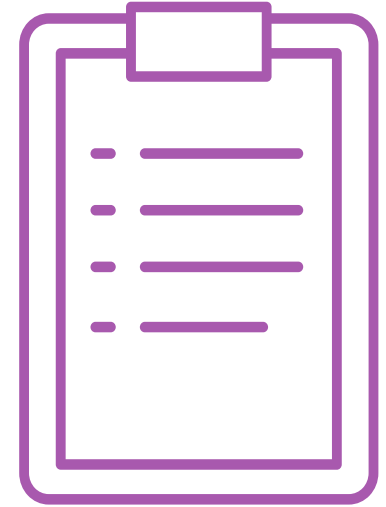
- Eligibility questions
- Brief statement of impact
- Two-page research narrative
- Applicant CV

Stage 2: Full proposal (invited applicants only)

- Detailed research narrative, budget, and timeline
- Other supporting materials
- Web-based interviews with semi-finalists

**LOIs are due
May 31, 2023 at
3:00 PM ET
*Late proposals will
not be accepted***

Review Process



Who Will Review My Proposal?

- RWJF program officers and staff
- Alumni from RWJF New Connections program
- E4A, P4A, and S4A program representatives
- Other expert reviewers as needed

Process

1. All LOIs that meet eligibility criteria will be read by at least 3 reviewers
2. Reviewers will score LOIs based on selection criteria
3. You will be notified on July 20, 2023, if you are invited to submit a full proposal
4. If invited, you will receive further instructions and resources for preparing your full proposal



Elements of a Competitive Proposal

At the LOI stage, reviewers will be looking for...

- **Potential** for HES4A to impact your career
...as described in your statement of impact
- **Relevance** of the research to Research, Evaluation, and Learning aims
...as described in the Rationale section of your letter of intent narrative
- **Feasibility** of the research
...the extent to which you have a reasonable plan to access data, study settings, other necessary conditions.

Scholar Expectations

- Collaboration with RWJF program officers and other HES4A grantees
- Regular meetings with technical mentor and career coach
- Active participation in research collaboration and translation activities offered through P4HE
- Participation in other activities organized by RWJF and other program offices (P4A, E4A, and S4A)
- Participation in scheduled progress check-ins





Questions?



Additional Applicant Resources

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/grants/active-funding-opportunities/2023/health-equity-scholars-for-action.html>

- Full funding opportunity
- Program Specific Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – regularly updated
- Archived recording of this webinar

Join us for Zoom-based office hours* if you have additional questions about HES4A:

- Friday, May 12 @ 1:00 –2:00 PM ET
- Monday, May 15 @ 4:00-5:00 PM ET

*Register for the office hours by going to “Programmatic and Technical Office Hours,” within the “Resources” section of the Application and Review system.

Contact Us



Website: www.rwjf.org/



Email: HES4A@rwjf.org



Phone: +1 609-627-5846



Apply: my.RWJF.org

Thank you!

